

TASSAJARA MEDIAN BARRIER ON HIGHWAY 101 IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

PURPOSE AND NEED

A pattern of collisions is known within the project limits involving high-centered vehicles that vaulted over the previous metal beam barrier. A gap in the barrier at the northerly limits of the project leaves the potential for cross-centerline collisions.

MAIN FEATURES

- Construct 1.5 mile-long concrete median barrier to replace the existing temporary concrete barrier.
- Extend southbound left turn lane at Tassajara Creek Road.
- Add northbound and southbound acceleration lanes at intersection of Tassajara Creek road.

CONSTRUCTION

- Estimated Cost: 1.5 Million
- Status: Contract awarded but delayed due to utility work being done by San Luis Obispo County.
- Schedule: Due to start construction June 2013 and be completed February 2014.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

A Mitigated Negative Declaration and Categorical Exclusion determination was completed for this project in 2011.

Vegetation removal and replacement

- Eight healthy trees will be removed, ranging in size from 7 inches to 16 inches in diameter. One diseased tree with a diameter of 42 inches will also be removed.



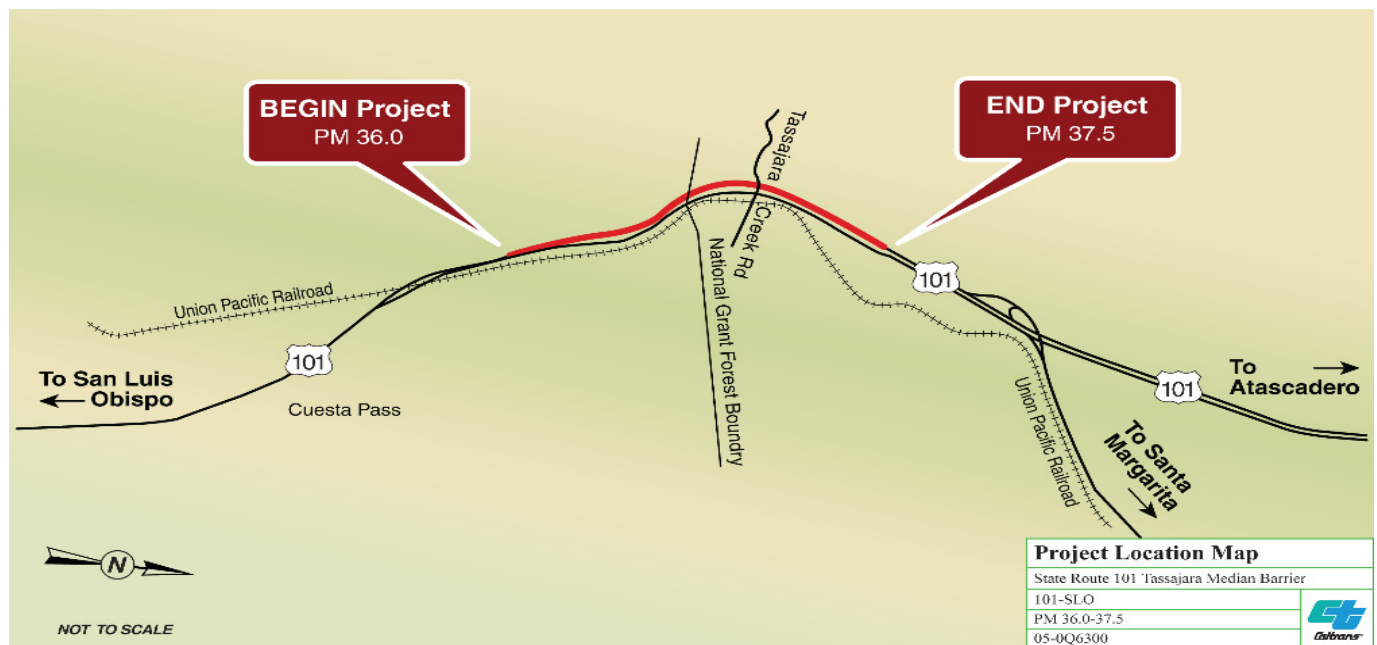
- The project will replant and maintain 110 oak trees and 390 native shrubs in the median and along the northbound roadside.

Visual quality

- Existing high-quality views to hillsides, ridgelines, native vegetation, and oak savannah are the primary contributors to the visual quality of the corridor. These scenic elements will remain unchanged with implementation of the project.
- A natural, unadorned concrete barrier finish is proposed which is visually subordinate to the surrounding high-quality landscape, and does not detract from views to the dramatic topography and dense native vegetation. Untreated barrier will also provide aesthetic continuity with the approximately six miles of existing concrete median barrier adjoining it to the south.
- Roadside grading will be contoured to match the surrounding natural topography.

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PROJECT LOCATION



Contact Amy Donatello, Project Manager, (805)549-3014 or email amydonatello@dot.ca.gov

Caltrans District 5

50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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